

Program—and three offices—Challenge Grants, Federal/State Partnership, and Enterprise.

The Hogg Middle School in my district received a grant from the NEH to do a historical study of the Heights, an area in my district, which will be published on the world-wide-web along the side and connected to the official online guide to Texas history. This is a tremendous achievement that could only be done with the help of the NEH.

The NEA is an independent agency of the Federal government charged with supporting the arts in America for All Americans. The NEA carries out their mission through grants, leadership initiatives, partnership agreements with state and regional organizations, partnerships with other Federal agencies and the private sector, research, arts education, access programs, and advocacy.

Since 1965, the example at the Federal level has led to the establishment of public arts agencies in every state and the creation of seven regional arts agencies. Public arts agencies in small towns and cities have grown to over 3,800. Through the NEA partnerships, they have helped to increase the amount of private donations to the arts. For every dollar the endowment awards, other sources contribute \$12 to make art happen in thousands of communities.

The NEA in Texas has provided money for such programs to the Houston Symphony Society, the Houston International Jazz Festival, the Alley Theater and the Texas Institute for Arts in Education. These programs ensure that Houston, TX, will remain a hub of arts and culture for years to come, and I look forward to their continuing important work.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support funding for both the NEA and the NEH.

IN HONOR OF COLOMBIA AND THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE ON THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN AND OF THE COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY IN ELIZABETH, NJ

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 189th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of Colombia from Spain and to proclaim July 19–23, 1999, as “Colombian Week” in the City of Elizabeth, NJ.

The Colombian Community in the City of Elizabeth has made great contributions to my district, as well as to the State of New Jersey. They have provided many invaluable services, and their culture and heritage continues to enrich the entire 13th District. Repeatedly, they have worked diligently to realize every opportunity that American democracy provides.

Because of their spiritual and cultural values, the Colombian community of Elizabeth has exemplified civil responsibility. They have

emerged as true role models for all Americans by working not only for the welfare of the Colombian community, but for the health, wealth, and welfare of the city at large.

The initiation of “Colombian Week” offers a time for the Colombian community to celebrate Colombia’s growth as a nation and to share that feeling with the entire community of Elizabeth. Through teaching and learning from each other’s experiences, we are able to build a strong and united community. I invite all the people of Elizabeth to unite and help to commemorate this great Colombian anniversary.

I am happy to honor the Colombian community for their many achievements and contributions to the City of Elizabeth. As the city unites to commemorate the 189th anniversary of Colombia, may we all take a moment to recognize their great efforts and accomplishments.

WHY I’M OPPOSED TO A PAY HIKE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, very soon the House will decide on the matter of Congressional pay raises. This topic has also been considered by the State of Colorado. The Colorado General Assembly recently adopted Senate Joint Memorial 99–005—sponsored by Senate President Ray Powers of Colorado Springs, and State Representative Doug Dean of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States also speaks to the topic of legislative pay raises. It forbids Members of Congress from voting themselves pay raises. Amendment XXVII—“the Madison Amendment”—says, “No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.”

As one who has served in the Colorado State Senate, I am persuaded Colorado’s official position on the matter of pay raises is thoughtful and representative of Coloradans generally. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to consider my state’s perspective, as enumerated in SJM 99–005, which I hereby submit for the RECORD.

Furthermore, I offer this Memorial as the basis for my vote against the pay raise in question.

COLORADO STATE SENATE,
Denver, CO, May 21, 1999.

Hon. BOB SCHAFFER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCHAFFER: The Senate and the House of Representatives of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado have adopted the enclosed Senate Joint Memorial No. 99–5 and directed that a copy be forwarded to you for your information.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA K. DICKS,
Secretary of the Senate.

Enclosure.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99–005

Whereas, The twenty-seventh amendment to the constitution of the United States, also known as “The Madison Amendment”, provides that “No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.”; and

Whereas, The twenty-seventh amendment requires that an intervening election be held between the enactment of any congressional pay increase and its subsequent application to any member of Congress; and

Whereas, The twenty-seventh amendment requirement’s requirement for an intervening election is intended to allow voters in each state and congressional district to obtain direct information regarding salary increases prior to the reelection of incumbents or the election of others in their stead; and

Whereas, Salary increases for members of Congress currently are regulated by “The Government Ethics Reform Act of 1989,” (“The Act”) pursuant to 2 U.S.C. sec. 31; and

Whereas, The Act gives members of Congress an immediate one-time salary increase and, in subsequent years, an annual cost of living adjustment increase to salaries or pensions; and

Whereas, Such annual cost of living adjustment is established in accordance with federal law and incorporated in an executive order of the President in December of each year to establish salary increases that are put into effect on January 1 of the next year; and

Whereas, Through the automatic operation of the cost of living adjustment provisions, congressional salaries have been increased on the first day of January for several years; and

Whereas, Without the action of legislation, each Congress effectively and automatically enacts for itself a cost of living adjustment salary increase in violation of the twenty-seventh amendment; and

Whereas, When each year’s cost of living adjustment increase is paid on the following January 1 to members of Congress, former members, or spouses of deceased members without the process of an intervening election, the twenty-seventh amendment is violated; now therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, with the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That the General Assembly hereby expresses its opposition to automatic annual cost of living adjustment salary increases for members of Congress of the United States as violative of the twenty-seventh amendment to the United States Constitution and hereby memorializes the Congress to refrain from enacting any pay increase for members of Congress without an affirmative vote or that takes effect before the following Congress has been elected and fully sworn into office. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each member of the Congressional delegation representing the state of Colorado.